

The ongoing NRC Special Inspection at the Indian Point Energy Center, originally projected to end in late 2005, will extend into early 2006. Upon completion of the inspection, NRC will hold a public meeting to describe the activities, observations and findings.

On September 20, 2005, NRC began the special inspection to examine issues associated with leakage that Entergy personnel observed from small cracks in a portion of the Unit 2 spent fuel pool concrete wall. The objective and scope of the inspection is described in the October 7, 2005, [Updated Special Inspection Charter](#).

The purpose of the inspection is to ensure that public health and safety and protection of the environment are maintained, and NRC regulatory requirements are met. Other objectives include assessment of Entergy's efforts to identify and repair defects in the spent fuel pool liner that may be the cause of the observed leakage, and characterize the on-site tritium contamination of groundwater, including identification of the source or sources) and the extent of contamination. To date, Entergy has not identified any defect in the spent fuel pool liner that appears to be the source of the observed leakage, however, examination in this area is continuing. Additionally, Entergy is still in the process of installing a series of monitoring wells that are needed to understand the behavior of groundwater in the vicinity, and aid in the identification the source (or sources) and extent of the on-site tritium contamination.

NRC considers Entergy is making reasonable progress to resolve these issues, taking into account that the examination of the spent fuel pool liner and the installation of monitoring wells require a cautious approach to avoid interfering with plant equipment and ensure the personal safety of workers. Based on currently available information, NRC has not identified any existing condition that would adversely affect public health and safety or the environment. Entergy's initial characterization effort is expected to be completed in early 2006.

NRC considers it appropriate to continue the current Special Inspection until Entergy completes its initial characterization efforts. At that time, NRC expects to make a transition from the Special Inspection to follow-up inspection activities, as described in the "[Deviation Memorandum](#)" dated October 28, 2005.

Accordingly, NRC will continue to monitor and assess Entergy's performance in this area.